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Application No. 10/660,102

Filed: 9/10/03

TC Art Unit: 3736

Confirmation No.: 6872

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An umbilical cord sampling device

comprising:

a housing with a cavity adapted to receive an umbilical cord
such that the cavity immobilizes the cord relative to the housing;
and

at least one sampling needle enclosed within the housing and
that is positioned for insertion into the umbilical cord within
the cavity, the sampling needle being operatively connected to a
removable cassette containing a sampling reservoir.

2. (Original) The umbilical cord sampling device of claim 1
further comprising a roller.

3. (Original) The umbilical cord sampling device of claim 1
wherein at least one sampling needle is positionable relative to
an umbilical cord segment within the device.

4. (Original) The umbilical cord sampling device of claim 1
further comprising a system including a docking unit that mates
with the removable cassette.

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5. (Original) The umbilical cord sampling system of claim 4 further comprising an analyzer.

6. (Original) The umbilical cord sampling system of claim 4 further comprising a printer.

7. (Original) The umbilical cord sampling system of claim 4 further comprising a bar code reader.

8. (Original) The umbilical cord sampling system of claim 4 further comprising a magnetic card reader.

9. (Original) The umbilical cord sampling system of claim 5 wherein the analyzer is in operative communication with a computer.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein the device further comprises a base having a cavity in which an umbilical cord segment is positioned and a needle assembly housing a lens in the housing to view the needle position.

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11.(Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of sampling needles.

12.(Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a sensor.

13.(Original) The device of claim 12 wherein the sensor comprises a pH sensor.

14.(Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a meter.

15.(Currently Amended) A method for determining the values of physiologically relevant parameters of a biological fluid, comprising the steps of:

providing an umbilical cord sampling device having at least ~~one~~ a sampling needle positioned within the device housing such that the needle is operatively connected to at least one sampling reservoir;

placing an umbilical cord segment in the umbilical cord sampling device;

penetrating a fluid-containing lumen of the umbilical cord segment with a ~~the~~ sampling needle;

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collecting the fluid through the sampling needle in a
sampling reservoir; ~~and~~
separating the sampling reservoir from the sampling device;
and
analyzing the collected fluid to determine ~~values~~ a value of
a physiological parameter parameter.

16.(Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising
contacting the fluid with a sensor.

17.(Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising
measuring a blood analyte.

18.(Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising
measuring a blood gas value.

19.(Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising measuring
blood pH.

20.(Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising measuring
blood glucose.

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21. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising
communicating a parameter value ~~values~~ to a computer.

22. (New) The method of claim 15 providing a sampling reservoir
attached to a device with a connector.

23. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the penetrating step
further comprises moving a needle tip of the sampling needle into
the cord segment.

24. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising providing a
sampling device including a housing with a cavity that immobilizes
the cord segment relative to the housing.

25. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising inserting the
separated sampling reservoir into an analyzer.